REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 9, 2007.

Per the above amendment, claims 1-4 and 7 have been amended, and claims 9-11 canceled.

In response to the Examiner's reminder of the length and contents of the abstract, it is respectfully submitted that there are 149 words in the body of the abstract, and that a review of the abstract does not show anything amiss with the language thereof, at least to the undersigned. However, if the Examiner continues to think that there is something wrong with the language of the abstract, she is respectfully requested to specify the portion(s) of the abstract that requires correction to the undersigned so that it may be remedied.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Per the above, claim 3 has been amended to be directed to "a computer readable recording medium storing a computer program". Therefore, the subject matter of amended claim 3 is believed to be statutory.

The Section 101 rejection of claims 9 and 11 is believed to be moot inasmuch as claims 9-11 have been cancelled.

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwamura (US 6,807,285) in view of Miyahara et al (US 6,341,350) and Kadono (US 6,334,187).

The Examiner cites Kadono regarding the claim portion "changing random numbers". Yet Kadono, in column 7, lines 55-60, discloses that that aspect of his inventive method for embedding secret information is changed by changing the cycle of pseudo random numbers when the secret information is embedded. Also, in column 23, lines 17-19, Kadono teaches that the cycle of pseudo random numbers varies according to the converted amount.

As indicated above, claims 1-4 have been amended to include the following additional limitations: A first set of random numbers is changed into a second set of random numbers in response to the calculated corrective quantity. The random numbers in the first set include positive and negative integers, and an average value among the random numbers in the first set is equal to zero. The random numbers in the first set are ranked in an order from a lowest absolute value toward a greatest absolute value. First random numbers are selected from the ranked random numbers. The selected random numbers are changed in response to the corrective quantity to change the first set of random numbers into the second set of random numbers.

These limitations find support on page 18, line 19 to page 20, line 22 of the specification of the present application.

It is respectfully submitted that the noted limitations are not taught by Kadono. Furthermore, those limitations are not taught by either Iwamura or Miyahara et al. Therefore, it is further respectfully submitted that amended claims 1-4, and claims 5 and 6 which depend from amended claim 4, are patentable over Iwamura, Miyahara et al, and Kadono.

Claims 7-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwamura in view of Miyahara et al, Kadono, and Xie at al (US 6,512,836).

As indicated above, claim 7 has been amended to include additional limitations similar to the above-mentioned limitations added in amended claims 1-4. Same as before, the added limitations in amended claim 7 are believed not to be taught by any of Iwamura, Miyahara et al, Kadono, or Xie at al. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 7, and claim 8 which depends therefrom, are patentable over the combination of Iwamura, Miyahara et al, Kadono, and Xie at al.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application and pass the same to issue at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,
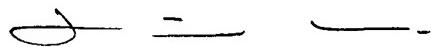
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